

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 22, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 1-9 were pending. Claims 1-4, 7 and 9 were rejected. Claims 5, 6 and 8 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Office Action first reports that the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4). In particular, the Office Action states that reference numeral "12" has been used to designate both a venting strip and a gutter. Upon review of the Specification, it is believed that this comment refers to use of reference numeral 12 in FIGS. 7A and 7B. Applicants have amended the Specification at page 9, line 8 to refer to reference numeral 12A. Likewise, a replacement sheet for FIGS. 7A and 7B in accordance with this change is also included.

In addition, applicant has further provided a replacement sheet for FIG. 6 wherein one of the reference numerals 24 has been corrected to 26 as described in the Specification at page 8, lines 12-13.

The Office Action next states that claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action indicates that claim 7 is ambiguous in the use of "together with and/or relative to at least one of said lower closure elements". Applicant has deleted the cited language of claim 7 and respectfully submits that the claim is in allowable form.

Next, the Office Action indicates that claim 1 was objected to because of informalities, in particular, the occurrence of "closure element". Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to correct the typographical error and submits that claim 1 no longer contains informalities. Additional

antecedent and grammatical errors have also been corrected in the claims.

The Office Action reports that claims 5-6 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicant has incorporated the feature of dependent claim 5 into claim 1. In addition, with this amendment applicant has added independent claim 10 that includes the features of claims 1 and 8. Allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested. In addition, dependent claims 11-15 have also been added and are believed to be separately patentable.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Steven M. Koehler, Reg. No. 36,188
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312